Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01095 051605Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 /019 W
---------- 125163 051613Z /42
R 051519Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8325
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1095

STADIS//////////////////////////

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, AG
SUBJ: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA

REF: STATE 083084

1. SINCE DEA ESTABLISHED REGIONAL OFFICE IN RABAT, EMBASSY HAS HAD CORDIAL, IF LIMITED, RELATIONSHIP WITH PAUL HIGDON, WHO IS SAIC THERE. ALGERIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IS LIMITED, AND DEA INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY HAS, THEREFORE, NOT BEEN HIGH. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS DONE ITS BEST TO FACILITATE SAIC'S CONTACTS WITH ALGERIAN ADMINISTRATION AND HAS STAYED OUT OF THE WAY WHEN THIS SEEMED APPROPRIATE. IN EARLY 1975, FOR EXAMPLE, ALGERIAN POLICE CONDUCTED SEMINAR ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING TO WHICH HIGDON WAS IN-VITED. AS IS OFTEN THEIR PRACTICE, ALGERIANS KEPT HIGDON HERME-TICALLY SEALED FROM EMBASSY, AND LATTER POSED NO OBJECTIONS. HIGDON SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED GOOD RUNDOWN OF WHAT WENT ON AT CONFERENCE. IN EARLY 1976 WHEN HIGDON VISITED ALGIERS, EMBASSY DID NOT OBJECT TO HIS MEETING PRIVATELY WITH A POLICE CONTACT. MORE RECENTLY, EMBASSY DISTRIBUTED DEA MATERIALS TO FORMER ALGERIAN PARTICIPANTS IN DEA ALGERIAN PROGRAMS AND KEPT GOA APPRISED OF DEA TRAINING OPPROTUNITIES IN U.S. EMBASSY ALSO FOLLOWED UP, ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, WITH LOCAL INTERPOL AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FOR DEA ON ONE OF AMERICANS THEN SERVING PRISON SENTENCE HERE FOR
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 01095 051605Z

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

2. WE CAN RECALL ONLY ONE OCCASION IN WHICH THERE WAS A SLIGHT PROBLEM IN EMBASSY/DEA RELATIONS. IN EARLY 1976, HIGDON'S POLICE CONTACT INFORMED HIM OF TRUE IDENTITY OF ONE OF JAILED AMERICANS JUST MENTIONED. HIGDON NATURALLY REPORTED THIS TO HIS HEADQUARTERS BUT NOT TO EMBASSY. DEA ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE NEGLECTED TO INFORM

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

DEPARTMENT. RESULT WAS MINOR EMBARRASSMENT FOR EMBASSY IN SUBSEQUENT DEALINGS WITH GOA. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR CALLED PROBLEM TO HIGDON'S ATTENTION AND SUGGESTED CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN EMBASSY AND HIM. HIGDON TOOK SUGGESTION GRACIOUSLY, AND RELATIONS CONTINUED TO BE EXCELLENT.

3. IN RECENT MONTHS EMBASSY HAS HAD NO OCCASION TO DEAL WITH DEA IN RABAT OR ELSEWHERE.
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20 Mar 2014
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